

configuration engine is downloaded to the client and contains programs to interactively elicit from a user the desired configuration to be uploaded to the at least one server; and

AS 39. (Amended) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system to perform a procedure for developing a product configuration in a client-server environment, the computer-readable medium having client programs and server programs with functions for invocation, by performing the acts of:

- (a) interactively eliciting from a user on the client a desired subset of possible products having technical configurations;
- (b) in response to the user's desired subset of possible products having technical configurations, downloading from the server to the client limited configuration information and limited configuration programs selected as a subset by the server from a full set of configuration information and full configuration programs resident on the server;
- (c) interactively eliciting from the user on the client a desired technical configuration and preliminarily checking at the client the viability of the desired technical configuration using the limited configuration information and the limited configuration programs;
- (d) uploading the desired technical configuration from the client to the server and performing a full check on the viability of the desired technical configuration using the full configuration information and the full configuration programs on the server; and
- (e) responsive to the full check, preparing and outputting on the client an electronic order report.

REMARKS

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Puri, U.S. Patent No. 6,064,982, and further in view of Christeson et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,926,817.

Initially, the present invention relates to a system and method where certain resource and application programming functions are essentially divided between a client side application and a server side application. That is, as explained in the specification it may be undesirable in certain situations to pass every inquiry, request for information, or other function back and forth between a client and server. On the other hand, many applications are unduly large in comparison to the portion of the application

actually used by a given client. Thus, it is also undesirable in certain situations to pass the entire application to the client to allow the client to perform the entirety of the application on the client side.

In other words, in at least one embodiment a given client can access a given server; provide some indication of the what is being requested; receive a limited subset of all of the available functionality; utilize that functionality on the client side; and provide the results of that functionality to the server.

Such a system is simply not taught by Puri, Christeson et al., or a combination of the two. Puri teaches a system whereby all of the information and all of the functionality is resident on the client side. The only integration with the server comes from "pushed" updates to certain pricing and availability information otherwise resident on the client side. In other words, the server simply updates the information on the client. The fact that the entirety of the functionality occurs on the client side is explicit. "Significant to the invention is the ability to perform *all* sales related functions off line." Col. 2, lines 63-65 (Emphasis added). "The smart configurator provides an interactive *off-line* product selection dialog." Col. 3, lines 54-55 (Emphasis added). "As discussed above, one *significant feature* of the invention is the ability of the user to operate the smart configuration off-line." Col. 4, lines 23-25 (Emphasis added).

Thus, the Puri system has all of the functionality available on the client side, which as addressed in the present application is undesirable in some contexts. Puri only makes peripheral and optional use of anything on the server side and what is utilized is only an update to the information already stored on the client side. "Finally, the smart configurator may *optionally* be placed on-line to check for the existence of more current pricing and SKU information at a company server." Col. 4, lines 16-18 (Emphasis added).

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner seemed to imply that the terminology relating to the "limited configuration engine" was being so broadly interpreted as to read on the references. While Applicant respectfully asserts that the language is sufficiently clear to define the invention over those references, the present claims have been amended. Specifically, language has been added that illustrates that the limited configuration engine or other limited information is a subset from a full configuration engine or full set of information resident on the server. Clearly, neither reference alone or in combination teaches the claimed invention.

The Christeson et al. reference does not teach these concepts or make up for the deficiencies noted in Puri. Thus, neither reference alone or in combination teaches the presently claimed invention. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection and pass this case to issue.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Marked-up Version Showing Changes.**"

This application now stands in allowable form and reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

Date: 1/22/07

By: 

Daniel G. Chapik (Reg. No. 43,424)
Suite 1500
50 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1498
(612) 343-7955

MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Amended) A method for developing a technical configuration and electronically delivering to a client from a server an order report for the technical configuration, the method comprising:

(a) interactively eliciting and electronically receiving from a user on the client a desired technical configuration, wherein the act of interactively eliciting and electronically receiving comprises providing to the client from the server a limited configuration engine that is a subset of a full configuration engine residing on the server, and performing a first, limited check on the viability of the desired technical configuration on the client using the limited configuration engine;

(b) performing a second, final check on the viability of the desired technical configuration using [a] the full configuration engine on the server; and

(c) in response to the final check, preparing and outputting on the client an electronic order report.

11. (Amended) In a computer network having at least one server connectable to at least one client, a method for creating technical configurations and electronically delivering order reports to at least one client, the method comprising:

(a) interactively eliciting from a user on the at least one client a desired subset of possible products having technical configurations;

(b) in response to the user's desired subset of possible products having technical configurations, downloading from the at least one server to the at least one client limited configuration information that is a subset of a full set of configuration information residing on the server and limited configuration programs that are a subset of a full configuration program residing on the server;

(c) interactively eliciting from the user on the at least one client a desired technical configuration and preliminarily checking at the at least one client the viability of the desired technical configuration using the limited configuration information and the limited configuration programs;

(d) uploading the desired technical configuration from the at least one client to the at least one server and performing a full check on the viability of the desired technical configuration using full configuration information and full configuration programs on the at least one server; and

(e) responsive to the full check, preparing and outputting on the at least one client an electronic order report.

24. (Amended) In a computer network having at least one server connectable to at least one client, a method for creating vehicle configurations and electronically delivering order reports to at least one client, the method comprising:

- (a) interactively eliciting from a user on the at least one client a desired make, model, and series for a vehicle;
- (b) in response to the user's desired make, model, and series for a vehicle, downloading from the at least one server to the at least one client limited configuration information selected by the server as a subset from a full set of configuration information and limited configuration programs selected by the server as a subset of programs from a full configuration program residing on the server;
- (c) interactively eliciting from the user on the at least one client a desired vehicle configuration and preliminarily checking at the at least one client the viability of the desired vehicle configuration using the limited configuration information and the limited configuration programs;
- (d) uploading the desired vehicle configuration from the at least one client to the at least one server and performing a full check on the viability of the desired vehicle configuration using full configuration information and full configuration programs on the at least one server; and
- (e) responsive to the full check, preparing and outputting on the at least one client an electronic order report.

25. (Amended) A method for developing a product configuration in a client-server environment, wherein the server has full option attributes and full option rules, the method comprising:

- (a) receiving initial product configuration data from a user on a client;
- (b) in response to the initial product configuration data, allocating limited option attributes that are a subset of the full option attributes and limited option rules that are a subset of the full option rules to the client by downloading such limited option attributes and limited option rules to the client;
- (c) receiving from the client a first proposed product configuration developed from client processing of the limited option attributes and limited option rules;

- (c) interactively eliciting from the user on the client a desired technical configuration and preliminarily checking at the client the viability of the desired technical configuration using the limited configuration information and the limited configuration programs;
- (d) uploading the desired technical configuration from the client to the server and performing a full check on the viability of the desired technical configuration using the full configuration information and the full configuration programs on the server; and
- (e) responsive to the full check, preparing and outputting on the client an electronic order report.